

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
Brooklyn Center, MN

As we continue to move through the pandemic, there are some temporary changes in our liturgy, as well as a variety of new protocols in our in-person service. These changes are intended for the sake of the shared health of our community, particularly the most vulnerable among us. As we learn and adapt to this next chapter of our life together, we're grateful for your understanding, grace, and care. For more information about Level 3 of our Covid Response Plan, please see the Covid page on our website, and reach out to the Task Force with any questions. Even with these protocols in place, we give God thanks for the opportunity to gather for worship in new ways, and we trust in the Spirit to guide and enliven us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION + FORGIVENESS

We begin our worship acknowledging that we are sinners. We cling to the ways of death instead of opening our hands to the gift of life, given to us through Jesus' resurrection. Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sin in the presence of God and one another...

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, whose mercy is abundant, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May the Holy Spirit empower you in the freedom of this forgiveness, that the love of the risen Christ would guide all that you say and do, and that joy of the risen Christ would go with you. **Amen!**

GATHERING SONG O Love How Deep #322 verses 1, 4, 6, 7

Please join us by singing along not with your voice but in your heads and your hearts!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake!</p> <p>6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.</p> | <p>4 For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought,
by words and signs and actions thus
still seeking not himself, but us.</p> <p>7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad;
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.</p> |
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together:

A: Jesus the Vine, you are the source of love, and it is only in you that we can love one another. May we abide in you, that we might share your love with all to whom we are connected; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Keith Williams

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:1-8

The Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Ali Tranvik

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love is This #666 verses 1, 3, 4

Please join us by singing along not with your voice but in your heads and your hearts!

- 1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
- 3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And always with you.

Let's share a sign of that peace with one another.

If you're worshipping in-person, you're invited to stand up, remain in your pews, and turn to neighbors near you, offering a physically distant sign of peace: a wave, nod or bow, peace sign, or crossing arms over the chest as a symbol of an embrace. If you're worshipping on Zoom, you're invited to turn on your video and wave or give a peace sign to others.

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY RESPONSE How He Loves Worship Team

If you're worshipping with us in-person, please note that offering plates will not be passed around at this time. You are welcome to drop off offering before or after the services. If you're worshipping with us virtually, we invite you to make an offering by sending a check to the church or by visiting our secure online giving page which can be found at the bottom of our home page: www.crossofglory.us.

He is jealous for me, loves like a hurricane,
I am a tree bending beneath
The weight of His wind and mercy,
When all of a sudden, I am unaware of
These afflictions eclipsed by glory.

Oh, how He loves us so.
Oh, how He loves us.
How He loves us so
(REPEAT)

I realize just how beautiful You are
And how great Your affections are for me.

(Yeah) He loves us.
Oh, how He loves us.
Oh, how He loves us.
Oh, how He loves.
(REPEAT)

We are His portion and He is our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes.
If grace is an ocean we're all sinking.
So Heaven meets earth
Like an unforeseen kiss,
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest.
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way that

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation... Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

COMMUNION A BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

As we continue to discern the most care-filled and safe way to partake of our holy sacrament in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, Communion will function differently for the time being. We will bless the bread and wine during the service, and we invite you to partake of the meal following worship, either outdoors or at home. An usher will distribute Communion to you as you leave the sanctuary. We will adapt our practices in the coming weeks and months as we are able. Today, we trust that the Spirit still draws us together as one body through this sacrament, and are grateful for your understanding at this time.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

You will receive Communion upon leaving the sanctuary today. When you partake in this meal, remember these words: The body of Christ is given for you, and the blood of Christ is shed for you.

Let us pray: God of the table, you fill us not only with bread of your body but with the joy of your presence. Send us forth from this feast nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and extend this table hospitality to all who are hungry. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the risen One fill you with life, nurture your faith, deepen your love, and ✠ grant you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG Forever Worship Team

Please join us by singing along not with your voice but in your heads and your hearts!

Give thanks to the Lord,
Our God and King.
His love endures forever.
For He is good. He is above all things.
His love endures forever.
Sing praise. sing praise.

Sing praise. Sing praise.
Forever God is faithful.
Forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us.
Forever. Forever.

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever.
For the life that's been reborn,
His love endures forever.
Sing praise. Sing praise.

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever.
And by the grace of God
We will carry on.
His love endures forever.
Sing praise. Sing praise.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God!**

If you're worshipping in-person, please join us for a brief time of fellowship following today's service outdoors in the parking lot. In the case of bad weather, the Fellowship Hall will remain available for masked and distanced fellowship.

If you're worshipping with us on Zoom, you are welcome to stick around for Virtual Coffee Hour. This time will not be structured as it has been in recent months. Simply stay for fellowship and conversation for as long as you'd like!

POSTLUDE

MUSIC CREDITS

The Order of Service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship which is commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Lead Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik

Pianist, vocalist, worship team director: Mark Trease

Vocalist, choir director: Keith Williams

Lector: Dawn Bailey

Technical Team: Ryan Bailey, Mike Edstrom, Erik Haugland

Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory

Congregational Support as of 3/31/2021

Annual Budget: \$230,000.00

Year to Date Budgeted: \$57,800.03

Year to Date Received: \$71,904.52

Difference: \$14,104.49

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This week, the CAPI mutual aid site located in Cross of Glory's fellowship hall and parking lot will be open for emergency supply distribution on Friday (4/30) afternoon from 10-5 pm. If you are able to lend a hand for a couple hours, please let Pastor Ali know. We will be reassessing needs after this week. Please see our facebook page and website for further updates.
- Visit www.healingourcity.org to join together with interfaith neighbors across the city for 20 minutes of virtual prayer for our city every morning at 8 am.
- We are currently offering both in-person and virtual worship options. You are welcome to worship with us however you feel most comfortable! Given the recent spike in Covid cases in our area, the Covid Task Force is currently recommending that those who can meaningfully worship and gather virtually to do so. Please stay tuned for further info as circumstances evolve, and reach out to the Task Force with any questions.
- If you're interested in joining with other Cross of Glory members, students at Progeny, and other Brooklyn Center neighbors for community gardening this spring & summer in the plots in our church's backyard, please contact Pastor Ali.
- Liturgy means "the work of the people." We're grateful for all the ways our shared work helps shape our weekly worship. If you're interested in serving as an usher, greeter, reader, musician, or tech support, please contact the church office.
- Pastor Ali is available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer. Please reach out to by email (atranvik@crossofglory.us) or phone (763-533-8602).